# ID CARDS ACTIVITY

# ID CARDS ACTIVITY



WORKSHOP GUIDE

Teaching About the Holocaust: Lessons for Today

Page 45

# BACKGROUND

- Developed from USHMM
  - Excerpted from museum's ID cards collection
- Total of 35 cards in the set
  - Included in Trunk Project
  - Represents classroom-size ratio of larger scale
- Simple activity → Complex concepts

# OBJECTIVES

☑Pre-Reading ☑ During Reading ☐ Post Reading

- Provides students with following information:
  - Defines the Holocaust and connect the events to the definition
  - Explores categories of behavior based on choices

# OBJECTIVES

☑Pre-Reading ☑ During Reading ☐ Post Reading

- Provides students with following information:
  - Emphasizes that the Holocaust took place because individuals, groups, and nations made decisions to act or not to act
  - Explores the Holocaust through personal stories instead of just statistics

# RATIONALE

- This activity strives to accomplish the following from the "Guidelines for Teaching about the Holocaust":
  - Define the term "Holocaust"
  - Do not teach or imply that the Holocaust was inevitable
  - Avoid simple answers to complex questions
  - Contextualize the history
  - Translate statistics into people

# METHODOLOGY

- 1. Provide informative framework.
  - Definition
  - Categories of behavior
- 2. Prepare for cards.
- 3. Distribute cards.
- 4. Initiate series of questions.
- 5. Conclude the activity. Allow for follow-up questions.
- 6. If applicable, transition into assigning further reading or project.

# ID CARDS ACTIVITY

Part 1: Provide Informative Framework

- 1. Perpetrators & Collaborators
- 2. TARGETS
- 3. RESCUERS
- 4. RESISTANCE
- 5. Bystanders

## 1. Perpetrators & Collaborators

The set does not include cards of perpetrator or collaborators but you can have students create a graphic organizer of unseen characters in an individual story. Examples: If they have a card of someone who was deported, map out what roles people had – who drove the trains? Who moved them into the ghetto?

- 1. Perpetrators & Collaborators
- 2. TARGETS
- 3. Rescuers
- 4. RESISTANCE
- 5. Bystanders

# Fluidity of choices



### ID CARD



Gideon was born to Christian parents in the Netherlands. He was nicknamed "Gi" by his family and friends. He had two brothers and two sisters.

Gi had many friends, Christian and Jewish. After school they spent time together. He and his friends enjoyed taking bike trips, having parties and listening to music.

In the mid-1930s, Gi's parents joined the Dutch Nazi party because they thought it offered a good political system. They quickly left the party, however, when they saw how badly its members behaved.

Gi completed school and started working at an insurance company like his father. Then on May 10, 1940, the Germans invaded the Netherlands. Eight days later they arrived in Amsterdam.

Gi and his brother began working for the Dutch resistance. Their parents helped hide Jews.

On Sunday, August 2, 1942, Gi and his brother were arrested and put in prison.

Gi was executed by the Nazis on October 1, 1942 with his brother and 18 other resistance fighters.

Gi was 20 years old when he died.

### Gideon Boissevain

DATE OF BIRTH:

June 5, 1921

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Amsterdam, the

Netherlands

- 1. Perpetrators & Collaborators
- 2. TARGETS
- 3. Rescuers
- 4. RESISTANCE
- 5. Bystanders

Nazis did not kill him → collaborators



Kalman Kernweiss

DATE OF BIRTH:

1920

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Kupno, Poland



### ID CARD



Kalman was the oldest of ten children born to Jewish parents in a small village in Poland. His father provided for the family by buying chickens, eggs and vegetables from the peasants and selling them at the town market a few miles away. Kalman walked to town each day to attend school.

When there was time, he taught himself English from an old book. English became his passion. He asked people to call him "Charlie" instead of Kalman. His dream was to move to America. He wrote to the American president's wife, Eleanor Roosevelt, telling her of his wish. She wrote him back, encouraging his dream. He carried the letter with him for good luck.

When the Nazis took over, Kalman and other Jewish men were forced to work at a labor camp. Kalman was only 16. He managed to escape and return to his village. He hid in a barn and went out each week to get food from a peasant he knew. One night, he was visited by two Jewish friends who had also escaped from the labor camp and were hiding in the forest. Kalman decided to join them. He spent many months hiding in the forest with them. He made regular trips into his village for food.

On a trip into town, Kalman was attacked by some of his old neighbors who hated Jews. Later, a friend from the forest found Kalman with a pitchfork in his chest. Kalman died the next day. He was about 21 years old when he died.

### collaborators

# NAME:

Maria Nemeth

DATE OF BIRTH:

December 14, 1932

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Szentes, Hungary

### ID CARD



Maria was born to Jewish parents in Hungary. Her father was a dentist.

In 1937, her mother took in a young Austrian woman who lived with the family and helped Maria learn German.

In March 1944, German troops occupied Hungary. Maria's grandparents owned a store but it was taken over by members of the Arrow Cross, a political party in Hungary that was very similar to the Nazis.

Maria, her parents, grandparents, uncle, aunt and cousins were forced to move into a ghetto set up in the town's sports field and brickyards. They had to live there with thousands of other Jews from nearby towns until they were taken to the Strasshof concentration camp. From there they were taken again to another camp, this time to be used for forced labor near a small village called Goestling an der Ybbs.

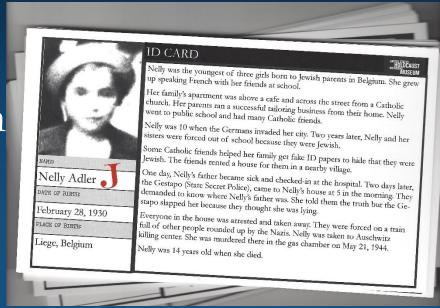
Maria and her family were among 80 Jews in the camp who were machine-gunned to death by retreating SS soldiers just days before U.S. forces reached the area.

Maria was 13 years old when she died.

- 1. Perpetrators & Collaborators
- 2. TARGETS
- 3. Rescuers
- 4. RESISTANCE

5. Bystanders

- •Out of 35 cards, 29 are Jewish
- •All Jews were targets, not all targets were Jews
- •Only 5 cards of survivors





Ceija Stokja

DATE OF BIRTH:

1933

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Krabath bei Knittelfield, Austria

### ID CARD



Ceija was the fifth of six children born to Roma parents in Austria. The family lived and travelled in a wagon. They belonged to a tribe called the Lowara Roma, who made their living as horse traders.

Ceija grew up used to freedom, travel and hard work. She was 5 years old when the Stokja family parked their wagon for the winter in a Vienna campground. Then Germany entered Austria in March 1938.

The Germans ordered the Roma to stay put. Ceija's parents had to convert their wagon into a wooden house. They had to learn how to cook with an oven instead of a camp fire. They were forced to register as members of another "race."

The camp was fenced off and placed under police guard. Ceija was 8 when the Germans took her father away. A few months later, her mother received his ashes in a box. Next, the Germans took her sister, Kathi. Then they forced the remainder of the family into the "gypsy camp" at Auschwitz.

Her mother and five of her siblings survived Auschwitz. Her youngest brother died of disease in another camp when he was just 7 years old.

Ceija was liberated from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945 when she was 12 years old. After the war, she published a book of Roma songs about the Holocaust so that no one would forget what happened to her people.



NAME:

Willibald Wohlfahrt

DATE OF BIRTH:

December 5, 1927

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Koestenberg-Velden, Austria

### ID CARD



Willibald was the youngest of six children born to Catholic parents in a village in Austria. His father and mother became Jehovah's Witnesses when Will was a baby. They raised their children in their new faith. His father became the leader of the local Jehovah's Witness congregation.

Will lived in a beautiful area near lakes and mountains. His family was active in Jehovah's Witness missionary work even though the Austrian government did not like their teachings. In 1938, the Nazis took over Austria.

Will's father was arrested on September 1, 1939, for refusing to join the army. Three months later he was killed. Will's oldest brother was sent to a concentration camp and another brother, Gregor, was also killed for refusing to join the army. The Jehovah's Witnesses believed that army service was against God's fifth commandment, "Thou shalt not kill."

When Will was 14, he and his remaining sisters and brother were taken away by the Germans. Will was beaten for refusing to salute Hitler. His allegiance was to God, not Hitler.

When the Allied armies approached the Germans, Will was sent to the battlefront to dig trenches for the German Army. In 1945, he was shot while digging in western Germany.

He was 17 years old when he died.

Even though they did not choose to be targets, many of them still made choices to resist (can be in more than one category at once)



### ID CARD



Henry was born in Germany to Jewish parents. After the Nazis came to power in Germany, Henry's father was arrested because he spoke out against the government. He was let go after he was made to promise that he would give up his business. Without his job he would not be able to care for his family.

Henry's parents tried to find a way to get Henry out of Germany. They sent applications to many countries asking for permission to let Henry live there. The U.S. was the first to grant emergency papers.

Henry was 15 when he left his family. He travelled alone to the U.S. First, he was placed in foster homes in Birmingham, Alabama, then he was taken to Atlanta.

When he got to Atlanta, Henry was given the news that his father was dead. He had died from wounds he received when he was beaten up by Nazi supporters on Kristallnacht — "The Night of Broken Glass" — when Jewish homes, synagogues, and businesses were vandalized and destroyed by gangs in Germany.

In 1943, Henry left his first job at a clothing story in Atlanta when he joined the U.S. Army. As his unit advanced through Europe they saw proof of what the Nazis had done to the people they thought were worthy of life. Henry saw dead bodies left in ditches and on abandoned train cars. After the war, he learned that almost his entire family had died in concentration camps. He began a new life in Atlanta. He has 4 children, 25 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

- 1. Perpetrators & Collaborators
- 2. TARGETS
- 3. RESCUERS
- 4. RESISTANCE
- 5. Bystanders

- 1. Perpetrators & Collaborators
- 2. TARGETS
- 3. RESCUERS
- 4. RESISTANCE
- 5. Bystanders



NAME:

Stefania (Fusia) Podgorska

DATE OF BIRTH:

1925

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Lipa, Poland

### ID CARD



Stefania was born in Poland to a Catholic family. They lived on a large farm and harvested many different crops.

Stefania's father died in 1938 after an illness. With her mother's approval, Stefania joined her sister in the city of Przemysl to work in a grocery store owned by the Diamants, a Jewish family. They treated Stefania like family and she moved in with them when the Germans invaded Poland on September 14, 1939. According to a pact between Russia and Germany, the Soviets occupied Stefania's part of Poland. But the grocery store stayed open. Stefania's job was to shop in the market for food to sell to the grocery store's customers.

When the Germans took over Prezemysl from the Soviets in June 1941 everything changed. Like all Jews in the city, the Diamants were forced to leave their homes and move into a ghetto. Stefania's mother was sent to Germany for forced labor. Stefania was only 16 but had to care for her 6-year-old sister. She found them an apartment outside the ghetto and traded clothes for food. In 1942, news spread that the ghetto was being emptied. Stefania decided to help some Jews escape by hiding them. She moved into a cottage for more space. Soon, 13 Jews were living in a secret space in her attic.

The city was liberated on July 27, 1944. The Jews that Stefania helped to hide all survived the war. In 1961, she moved to the United States with Josef Diamant, whom she married.

Contextualize stories of rescue – what factors made it possible?



NAME:

Preben Munch-Nielsen

DATE OF BIRTH:

June 13, 1926

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Snekkersten, Denmark

### **ID CARD**



Preben was born to a Christian family in a small fishing village on the sea in Denmark. He was raised by his grandmother.

Every day, Preben rode his bike 25 miles to school in the Danish capital city of Copenhagen. There were not many Jews in his school but he didn't think of them as different — to him they were just his classmates and friends. In Denmark, many people didn't care if someone was Jewish or not Jewish. Everyone was just a Dane.

By fifth grade, Preben and his classmates heard rumors that the Germans were getting ready to invade. His parents said that Adolf Hitler had promised not to invade Denmark, which made them feel safe.

But Hitler had lied. In April 1940, the German invasion had begun. Preben saw planes overhead and German officers in the street. He joined the resistance as a messenger. Then in October 1943, the Gestapo began hunting down Danish Jews.

The Danes began to help the Jews. They hid them in houses near the sea and brought them to boats. Under the cover of darkness, they took up to 12 Jews at a time across the sea to Sweden in fishing boats. The four-mile trip took about 50 minutes.

Preben helped move 1,400 Jews to safety in Sweden. He fled to Sweden as well in November 1943 when the Germans took over the Danish government. He came home when the war ended in May 1945.

Denmark was the only occupied country that actively resisted the Nazi regime's attempts to deport its Jewish citizens.

Categories of Behavior

# Why Denmark?

Legend: King Christian
X wore a yellow star in
support of the Danish
Jews



Truth: King Christian X expressed firm objections to German deportation plans



- Jews in Denmark were **not** required to wear yellow star.
- Danish government continued to govern under German occupation.
- Universities closed down to allow students to participate in the rescue efforts.
- Clergy urged congregations to help the Jews.
- Police refused to cooperate with the German deportation experts.

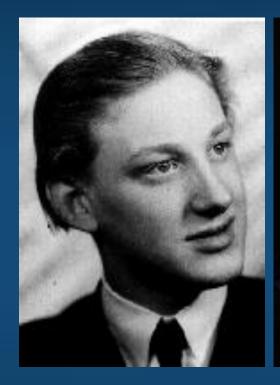
Social and cultural identity was definitely part of it but geography was a major contributing factor – use the maps on the back of the ID cards



"In Denmark, we did not distinguish between Jews and non-Jews.

We were all just Danes."

-Preben Munch Nielsen





- 1. Perpetrators & Collaborators
- 2. TARGETS
- 3. RESCUERS
- 4. RESISTANCE
- 5. Bystanders

Jewish resistance – difficult and expensive to obtain false ID papers



NAME:

Barbara Ledermann

DATE OF BIRTH:

September 4, 1925

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Berlin, Germany

### **ID CARD**



Barbara was the older of two daughters born to Jewish parents in Germany's capital, Berlin. Barbara's father was a successful lawyer. Barbara liked to go horseback riding and dreamed of becoming a dancer.

After the Nazis came to power in January 1933, it was illegal for Barbara's father to have non-Jewish customers. He had to close his law business. Later that year when Barbara was 7, the family moved to the Netherlands where her mother had relatives. They hoped life would be better there than in Germany. Barbara went to school in Amsterdam and quickly learned Dutch. She became friends with Anne Frank and her family, who had also moved to there from Germany.

But they were not safe for long. The Germans invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940. Two years later, they began to arrest many Jews. Barbara's sister and parents were arrested. They died in the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Barbara was not arrested because her boyfriend had given her fake ID papers that said she was not Jewish. The fake papers were very expensive but they saved her life.

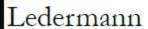
Barbara stayed in Amsterdam and joined the resistance groups. She helped by taking Jews to hiding places. Sometimes she hid Jews in her own apartment even though she was hiding under a fake name too.

Amsterdam was liberated by Canadian troops in May 1945. Barbara moved to the United States in November 1947.



NAME:

Susanne



DATE OF BIRTH:

October 8, 1928

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Berlin, Germany

#### ID CARD



Susanne was the younger of two daughters born to Jewish parents in the German capital of Berlin. Her father was a successful lawyer. She was nicknamed "Sanne." She liked to play with her sister and enjoyed visiting the Berlin Zoo and park with her family.

After the Nazis came to power in January 1933, it became illegal for Jewish lawyers to have non-Jewish customers. When Sanne was 4, her father's law business closed and the family moved to Amsterdam. They thought life would be better there. Sanne began school in Amsterdam when she was 6. She was a good student and quickly made friends. Some of her friends were also Jewish refugees from Germany, such as Anne Frank and her family.

But they were not safe for long. On May 14, 1940, Germans invaded the Netherlands. When Sanne was 13, the Germans forced the Jews out of public schools. Sanne had to enroll at a Jewish school.

By June 1942 the Germans were sending Jews to work in labor camps. Sanne's father believed that the family would not be harmed as long as they obeyed the law and followed German orders. He was wrong. On June 20, 1943, Sanne and her parents were arrested and sent to the Westerbork transit camp.

In 1944, they were sent from Westerbork to the Auschwitz concentration camp where they died. Sanne was 15 years old when she died.

Categories of Behavior

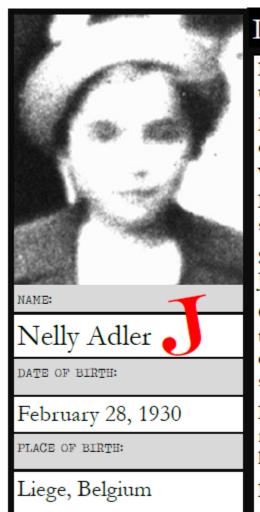
Context: The
Ledermanns were
German-Jewish
refugees living in
Amsterdam like
Anne Frank and
her family. They
lived in the same
apartment
complex.

Only Barbara survived...



**Beekbergen, Germany – summer 1941:** © Anne Frank Fonds, Bazel / Anne Frank Stichting, Amsterdam

Having false
ID papers did
not guarantee
survival



#### ID CARD



Nelly was the youngest of three girls born to Jewish parents in Belgium. She grew up speaking French with her friends at school.

Her family's apartment was above a cafe and across the street from a Catholic church. Her parents ran a successful tailoring business from their home. Nelly went to public school and had many Catholic friends.

Nelly was 10 when the Germans invaded her city. Two years later, Nelly and her sisters were forced out of school because they were Jewish.

Some Catholic friends helped her family get fake ID papers to hide that they were Jewish. The friends rented a house for them in a nearby village.

One day, Nelly's father became sick and checked-in at the hospital. Two days later, the Gestapo (State Secret Police), came to Nelly's house at 5 in the morning. They demanded to know where Nelly's father was. She told them the truth but the Gestapo slapped her because they thought she was lying.

Everyone in the house was arrested and taken away. They were forced on a train full of other people rounded up by the Nazis. Nelly was taken to Auschwitz killing center. She was murdered there in the gas chamber on May 21, 1944.

Nelly was 14 years old when she died.

Small act of rescue → consequence of death



DATE OF BIRTH:

PLACE OF BIRTH:

November 28, 1923

Stanislay, Poland

ID CARD



Celia was the youngest of three daughters born to Jewish parents in Poland.

Celia's oldest sister, Pepka, moved to Palestine one week after the Germans invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. Celia grew closer to her other sister, Amalie, who was starting college. Amalie helped Celia with her homework and helped her to understand the events taking place in the war. Celia hoped that soon all the family would be together in Palestine.

The Germans invaded her hometown on July 26, 1941. Jews over age 12 were forced to wear white armbands with a blue Jewish star.

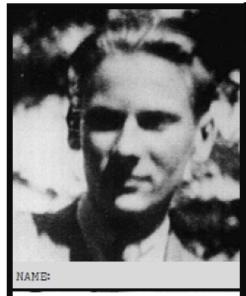
All the Jews in Celia's town were told to report to the Jewish community center for work assignments. Celia and her sister were given buckets and scrub brushes. They were ordered to clean at the Gestapo headquarters.

From the window of the building, Celia could see Jews trapped in the courtyard, crying for help. One day, unable to watch them suffer any longer, Celia tossed them her lunch of bread and cheese.

A German soldier spotted Celia as she threw the food to the imprisoned Jews. She was arrested, beaten and executed.

Celia was 17 years old when she died.

# Non-Jewish resistance



Jozef Wilk

DATE OF BIRTH:

March 19, 1925

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Rzeszow, Poland

#### ID CARD



Jozef was the youngest of three children born to Roman Catholic parents in Poland. Jozef's father was an officer in the Polish army. Jozef excelled in sports, and his favorite sport was gymnastics. He also studied the piano.

Jozef was 14 when Germany attacked Poland on September 1, 1939. The invasion affected him deeply. Raised in a patriotic family, he had been taught to love and defend Poland. The Germans were bombing Warsaw, the Polish capital, but Jozef was too young to join the army. The Germans reached Jozef's hometown on Sunday, September 10. After that, Jozef made his way to Warsaw, where he joined his two older sisters.

In Warsaw Jozef joined the Polish resistance. His code name was "Orlik." On April 19, 1943, during the Warsaw ghetto uprising, his unit was ordered to blow open part of the ghetto wall so Jews could escape. As his unit approached the wall with explosives and weapons under their coats, his friend "Mlodek" tripped. His pistol accidentally dropped to the pavement. A policeman spotted the pistol and opened fire. Chaos erupted. German units opened fire on Jozef's unit before it could reach the wall.

Jozef and "Mlodek" were killed in the gunfire. The rest of their unit made it to the wall. Jozef was 18 when he died.

Similar to how collaborators made the choice to work with the Nazis for various reasons, the same can be true for people who resisted the Nazis. People in the resistance did not necessarily do it to help the targets – they could have made the choice to resist for their own reasons.



### Dora Rivkina

DATE OF BIRTH:

November 7, 1924

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Minsk, Belorussia

#### ID CARD



Dora was the second of three girls born to a Jewish family in Minsk, the capital of Belorussia. Her family was one of many Jewish families living in the city. Dora's father worked in a state-owned factory building furniture.

As a young girl, Dora was athletic. She was good at swimming and dancing. When she was in the second grade, she was chosen to dance the lead part in a New Year's performance. She was also a member of the Young Pioneers, a youth group that held lectures on history and organized camping trips.

In 1941, the Germans invaded Minsk. Dora and her family were ordered to leave their home and move into a ghetto. Two years later, the Germans emptied the ghetto but Dora escaped from the transport and joined the partisans. But, it was not long until the Germans found them. When the guards ordered the partisans to identify any Jews, everyone remained silent at first. Then a guard threatened to shoot them all if they didn't speak, so a woman pointed at Dora. The Germans bound Dora's hands, tied a rock around her neck, threw her in a river and shot her.

Dora was 19 years-old when was murdered.

Some young girls who were in the partisan group told the story of Dora's death to her sister, Berta, the only surviving member of Dora's family.

- 1. Perpetrators & Collaborators
- 2. TARGETS
- 3. RESCUERS
- 4. RESISTANCE
- 5. BYSTANDERS

5. BYSTANDERS The set does not include cards profiling bystanders but you can have students create a graphic organizer of unseen characters in an individual story. Examples: If they have a card of someone who was deported, map out witnesses such as their neighbors.

## ID CARDS ACTIVITY

Part 2: Prepare for cards

### ID CARDS ACTIVITY

Part 3: Distribute the Cards

### ID CARDS ACTIVITY

Part 4: Initiate Series of Questions



Do NOT use "you" when asking the questions about the cards.

Instead, use "your card" "your person" or "the person on the card."



Do NOT use simulation activities when teaching about the Holocaust.

Do NOT put or ask your students to

think about themselves in these situations.



Do NOT ask your students what they would have done. Ask them what they will do in situations where they have a choice to make.

Raise your hand if you have a card with a red "J".

What does the red "J" mean?

What is the first thing you notice when you look at the card?

Those of you who have a card with a red "J":

Raise your hand if the person on your card died.



How did the person on your card die?

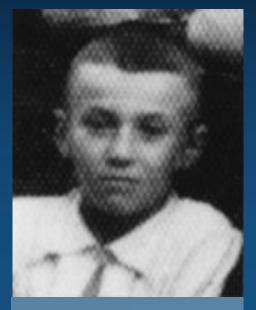
Disease – starvation – gas chamber - execution



Helene Melanie Lebel

Cause of death: euthanasia

Age at death: ~29



Baruch Szabasson

Cause of death: Typhus

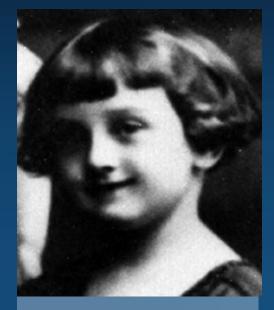
Age at death: 15



Blimcia Lische

Cause of death: Gas chamber

Age at death: 3 ½



Pola Nussbaum

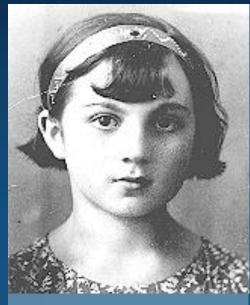
Cause of death: shot while trying to escape ghetto
Age at death: 19



Kalman Kernweiss

Cause of death: antisemitic neighbors

Age at death: 21



Dora Rivkina

Cause of death: Betrayed and shot

Age at death: 19



Thomas Kulka

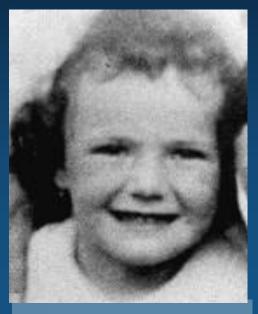
Cause of death: gas chamber at Sobibor killing center, 1942 Age at death: 7



Eva Heyman

Cause of death: not listed, died at Auschwitz 4 months after arrival, October 1944

Age at death: 13
Georgia Commission on the Holocaust - Do not duplicate



Maria Nemeth

Cause of death:
among 80 Jews in the
camp machinegunned to death by
retreating SS soldiers

Age at death: 13

Those of you who have a card with a red "J":

Raise your hand if the person on your card survived.



Where did he/she go after the war?

Why might someone have left Europe?



Raise your hand if the person on your card came to the US.

What about the US might have been particularly appealing to someone wanting to leave Europe?

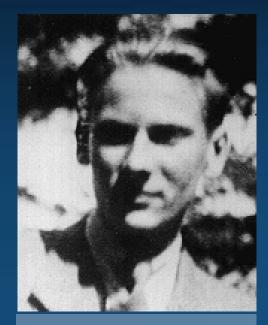
If you have a card with a "J" or without a "J":

Raise your hand if the person on your card resisted.



How did he/she resist?
What choice(s) did he/she make?

What were the consequences of being caught?



Jozef Wilk

Cause of death: Warsaw ghetto uprising

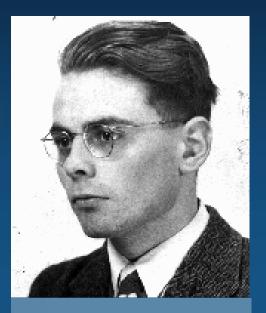
Age at death: 18



Franco Cesana

Cause of death: Execution?

Age at death: 12



Gideon Boissevain

Cause of death: Execution

Age at death: 20

If you have a card with a "J" or without a "J":

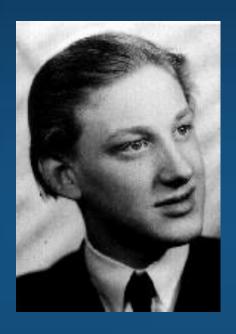
Raise your hand if the person on your card was a rescuer.



How did he/she rescue?

What choice(s) did he/she make?





### CONCLUDING THE ACTIVITY

- Emphasize choices
  - Do not ask what would you do. Ask what will you do.
- Diagram
- Timeline
- Map
- Research: Testimony, Country, Camp

### EMPHASIZE CHOICES

Do no ask what would you do.

Ask what will you do.

## www.holocaust.georgia.gov/id-cards

